

BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of about two million Palestinians in that area. Many of the restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza and the imposition of a blockade. These restrictions continue to reduce access to livelihoods, essential services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people's hopes for a secure and prosperous future.

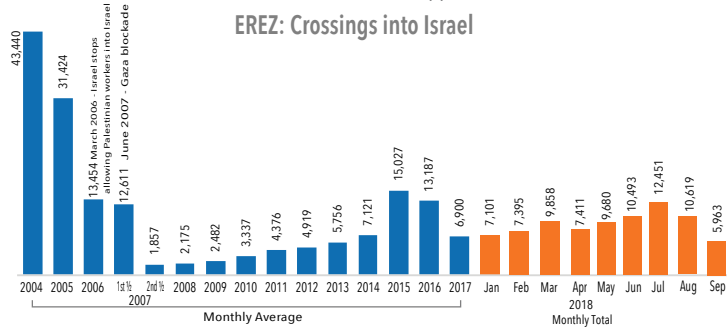


Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

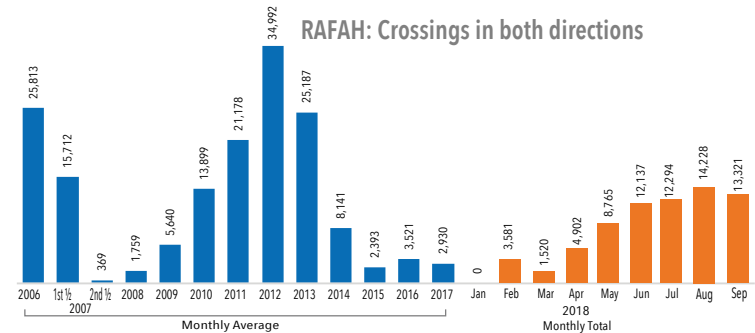
EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 21 days (closed on five Saturdays and four days of Jewish holidays, and partially closed four days following damage to the crossing during demonstrations) during daytime hours, from Sunday to Friday for all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers).
- The volume of crossings into Israel during September was 42% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2018, and the lowest since October 2017. The incurred decline can be attributed to the higher than average number of days in which the crossing was closed or partially closed during the month.
- Exits for trade and commercial purposes (2,489) accounted for the largest number of crossings, 44% below the monthly average of such exits since the beginning of 2018 (4,452).
- The exit of patients and their accompaniers (2,080) decreased by 12%, compared with the monthly average of such exits since the beginning of 2018 (2,359).
- 58% of the 1,837 applications for exit permits for patients referred to medical treatment outside Gaza were approved by Israel and the rest were either rejected or had not been answered at the time of the scheduled medical appointments.



RAFAH CROSSING

- Opened in both directions for 17 days, and in one direction (into Gaza) for another 6 days, primarily for the return to Gaza of pilgrims.
- Overall there were 7,179 entries into Gaza and 6,142 exits during the month.
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing has been open for 134 days during daytime hours, compared to 36 days during the whole of 2017.
- Despite the almost continuous operation of the crossing, access of people through it has been delayed and impeded due to unclear criteria for the selection of travelers allowed to cross every day.
- Since July 2018, the Rafah crossing has been operating five days a week (Sunday through Thursday).

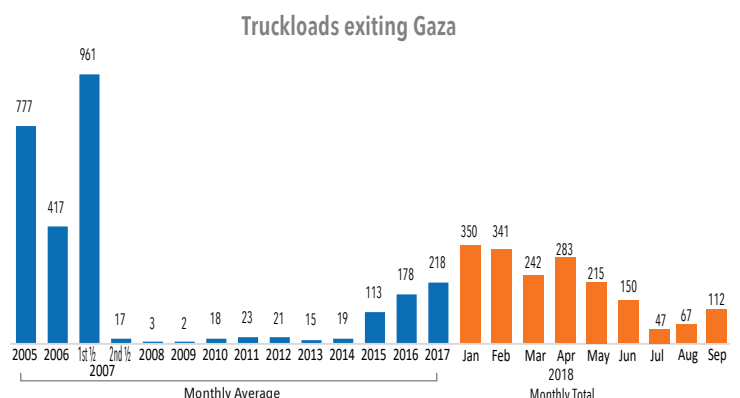


* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

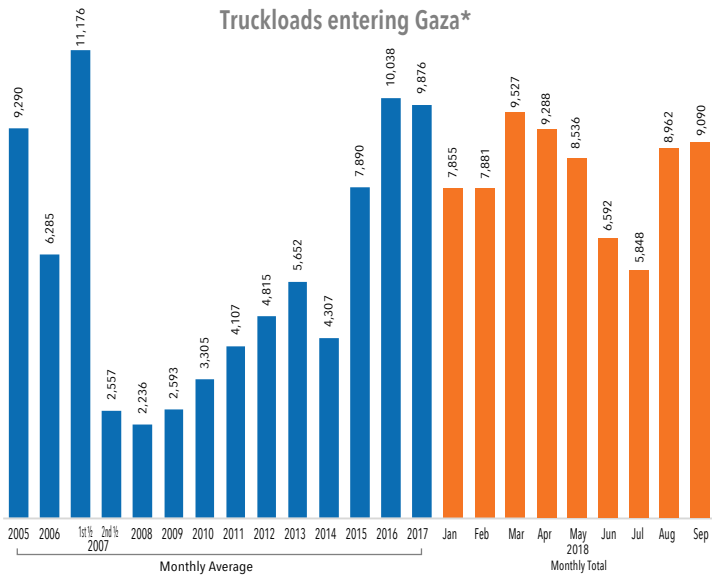
MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 13 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month represented a 26% increase compared with September 2017, but was 47% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2018 and 88% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
 - West Bank: 53 truckloads of agricultural produce, 15 of non-edible consumables, 11 of fish and 4 of clothing;
 - Israel: 29 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments;
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.



Truckloads entering Gaza*



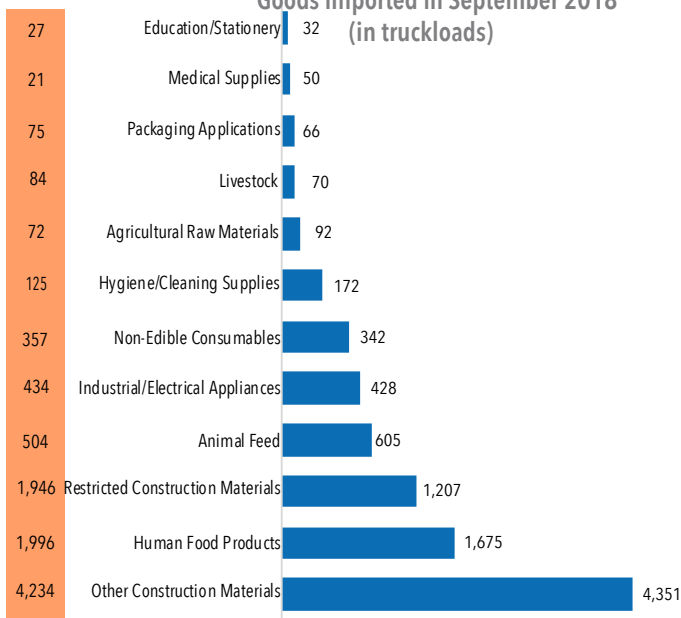
ENTRY OF GOODS

- The Kerem Shalom crossing operated on 13 days, and closed on Fridays and Saturdays, on seven days due to Jewish holidays and on one day due to the Islamic new year.
- During September, 8,383 truckloads of goods entered through Kerem Shalom, 8% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018.
- An additional 707 truckloads of goods were allowed from Egypt via the local authorities in Gaza controlled Salah ad Din gate, compared to a monthly average of 322 truckloads since the beginning of 2018.
- 2% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 5,558 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (56%); the volume of construction materials imported in September was 39% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018.
- 17% of the imported construction materials from Kerem Shalom contained items (cement, steel bars) defined by Israel as having a 'dual use' and were allowed to enter via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

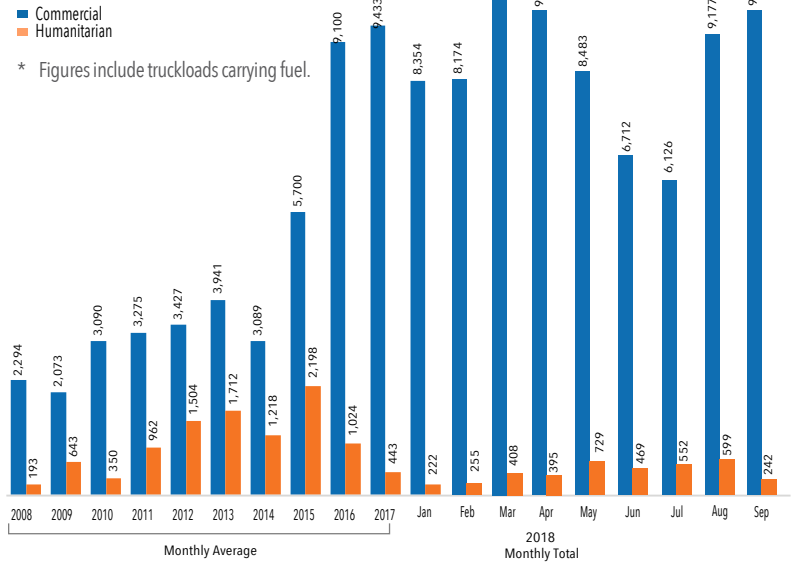
* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Monthly Average in 2017

Goods imported in September 2018 (in truckloads)



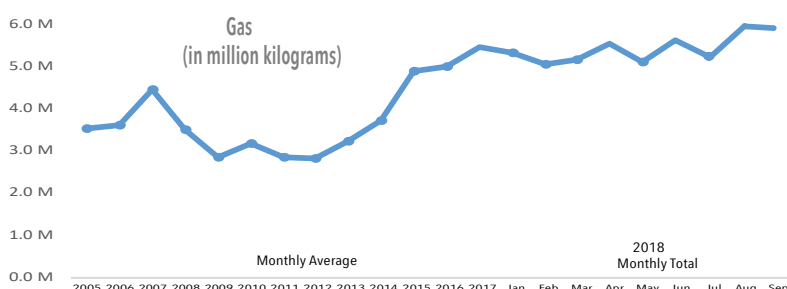
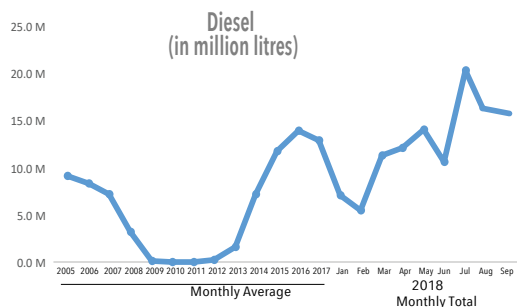
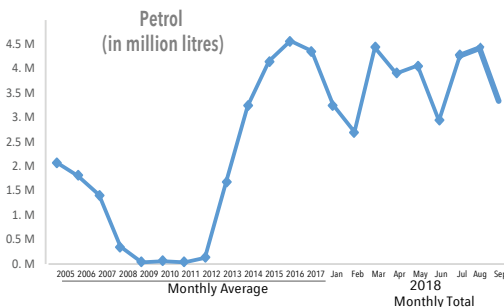
Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 13 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 12.2 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 2,737 tons of cooking gas

Salah ad Din Gate operated on 12 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 7.6 million litres of diesel.
- 1.2 million litres of petrol.
- 3,718 tons of cooking gas.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in September were 30% above the monthly average since the beginning of 2018.